

THE MESSIAH'S MISSION  
A DEVOTIONAL ON MATTHEW 8-12

# THE MESSIAH'S MISSION

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW, PART 4

A DEVOTIONAL ON MATTHEW 8-12



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	5
ABOUT EASTBROOK 365.....	5
HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL.....	6

## WEEK 1: THE MESSIAH HEALS

5/9	WORSHIP REFLECTION (MATTHEW 8:1-17).....	7
5/10	MATTHEW 8:1-4.....	8
5/11	MATTHEW 8:5-13.....	9
5/12	MATTHEW 8:14-17.....	10
5/13	ISAIAH 35:3-7.....	11
5/14	LUKE 7:21-23.....	12
5/15	WEEKLY REVIEW & APPLICATION.....	13

## WEEK 2: THE MESSIAH'S CALL

5/16	WORSHIP REFLECTION (MATTHEW 8:18-22).....	14
5/17	MATTHEW 4:18-22.....	15
5/18	LUKE 9:23-26.....	16
5/19	LUKE 14:25-33.....	17
5/20	ROMANS 12:1-8.....	18
5/21	PHILIPPIANS 3:7-12.....	19
5/22	WEEKLY REVIEW & APPLICATION.....	20

## WEEK 3: THE MESSIAH'S AUTHORITY

5/23	WORSHIP REFLECTION (MATTHEW 8:23-9:8).....	21
5/24	MATTHEW 8:23-27.....	22
5/25	JEREMIAH 10:12-16.....	23
5/26	MATTHEW 8:28-34.....	24
5/27	MARK 1:21-28.....	25
5/28	MATTHEW 9:1-8.....	26
5/29	WEEKLY REVIEW & APPLICATION.....	27

## WEEK 4: THE MESSIAH'S FOLLOWERS

5/30	WORSHIP REFLECTION (MATTHEW 9:9-17).....	28
5/31	MATTHEW 9:9-13.....	29
6/1	MATTHEW 9:14-17.....	30
6/2	LUKE 19:1-10.....	31
6/3	LUKE 7:36-50.....	32
6/4	LUKE 15:1-10.....	33
6/5	WEEKLY REVIEW & APPLICATION.....	34

## WEEK 5: THE MESSIAH DELIVERS

6/6	<b>WORSHIP REFLECTION (MATTHEW 9:18-34)</b> .....	35
6/7	<b>MATTHEW 9:18-19; 23-26</b> .....	36
6/8	<b>MATTHEW 9:20-22</b> .....	37
6/9	<b>MATTHEW 9:27-31</b> .....	38
6/10	<b>MATTHEW 9:32-34</b> .....	39
6/11	<b>PSALM 40:13-17</b> .....	40
6/12	<b>WEEKLY REVIEW &amp; APPLICATION</b> .....	41

## WEEK 6: THE MESSIAH SENDS

6/13	<b>WORSHIP REFLECTION (MATTHEW 9:35-10:25)</b> .....	42
6/14	<b>JOHN 20:19-23</b> .....	43
6/15	<b>MATTHEW 9:35-38</b> .....	44
6/16	<b>MATTHEW 10:1-10</b> .....	45
6/17	<b>MATTHEW 10:11-16</b> .....	46
6/18	<b>MATTHEW 10:17-25</b> .....	47
6/19	<b>WEEKLY REVIEW &amp; APPLICATION</b> .....	48

## WEEK 7: THE MESSIAH SENDS

6/20	<b>WORSHIP REFLECTION (MATTHEW 10:26-11:1)</b> .....	49
6/21	<b>LUKE 10:1-12</b> .....	50
6/22	<b>MATTHEW 10:26-31</b> .....	51
6/23	<b>MATTHEW 10:23-29</b> .....	52
6/24	<b>MATTHEW 10:40-11:1</b> .....	53
6/25	<b>MATTHEW 28:16-20</b> .....	54
6/26	<b>WEEKLY REVIEW &amp; APPLICATION</b> .....	55

## WEEK 8: THE MESSIAH & THE FORERUNNER

6/27	<b>WORSHIP REFLECTION (MATTHEW 11:2-19)</b> .....	56
6/28	<b>MATTHEW 11:2-6</b> .....	57
6/29	<b>MALACHI 2:17-3:5</b> .....	58
6/30	<b>MATTHEW 11:7-11</b> .....	59
7/1	<b>MARK 1:1-3; ISAIAH 40:3-5</b> .....	60
7/2	<b>MATTHEW 11:12-19</b> .....	61
7/3	<b>WEEKLY REVIEW &amp; APPLICATION</b> .....	62

## WEEK 9: THE MESSIAH'S CHALLENGE & INVITATION

7/4	<b>WORSHIP REFLECTION (MATTHEW 11:20-30)</b> .....	63
7/5	<b>MATTHEW 11:20-24</b> .....	64
7/6	<b>EZEKIEL 26:1-6</b> .....	65
7/7	<b>JEREMIAH 23:13-14; LAMENTATIONS 4:6-8</b> .....	66
7/8	<b>MATTHEW 11:25-30</b> .....	67
7/9	<b>ISAIAH 40:28-31</b> .....	68
7/10	<b>WEEKLY REVIEW &amp; APPLICATION</b> .....	69

## WEEK 10: THE MESSIAH & THE SABBATH

7/11	<b>WORSHIP REFLECTION (MATTHEW 12:1-21)</b> .....	70
7/12	<b>MATTHEW 12:1-8</b> .....	71
7/13	<b>ISAIAH 58:5-10</b> .....	72
7/14	<b>MATTHEW 12:8-14</b> .....	73
7/15	<b>MATTHEW 12:14-21</b> .....	74
7/16	<b>ISAIAH 42:1-7</b> .....	75
7/17	<b>WEEKLY REVIEW &amp; APPLICATION</b> .....	76

## WEEK 11: THE MESSIAH & SATAN

7/18	<b>MATTHEW 4:1-11 (MATTHEW 12:22-37)</b> .....	77
7/19	<b>MATTHEW 12:22-24</b> .....	78
7/20	<b>MATTHEW 12:25-29</b> .....	79
7/21	<b>MATTHEW 12:30-32</b> .....	80
7/22	<b>MATTHEW 12:33-37</b> .....	81
7/23	<b>JAMES 3:9-18</b> .....	82
7/24	<b>WEEKLY REVIEW &amp; APPLICATION</b> .....	83

## WEEK 12: THE MESSIAH'S SIGN

7/25	<b>WORSHIP REFLECTION (MATTHEW 12:38-45)</b> .....	84
7/26	<b>MATTHEW 12:38-42</b> .....	85
7/27	<b>JONAH 3:1-10</b> .....	86
7/28	<b>1 KINGS 10:1-9</b> .....	87
7/29	<b>MATTHEW 12:43-45</b> .....	88
7/30	<b>ISAIAH 8:11-22</b> .....	89
7/31	<b>WEEKLY REVIEW &amp; APPLICATION</b> .....	90

## WEEK 13: THE MESSIAH'S FAMILY

8/1	<b>WORSHIP REFLECTION (MATTHEW 12:46-50)</b> .....	91
8/2	<b>ROMANS 8:14-17</b> .....	92
8/3	<b>HEBREWS 2:10-18</b> .....	93
8/4	<b>EPHESIANS 1:2-6</b> .....	94
8/5	<b>JOHN 15:12-17</b> .....	95
8/6	<b>LUKE 8:19-21</b> .....	96
8/7	<b>WEEKLY REVIEW &amp; APPLICATION</b> .....	97

<b>ACKNOWLEDGMENTS</b> .....	98
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# INTRODUCTION

While the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) described what life in the kingdom of God should look like, this next segment of the book of Matthew (chapters 8-12) shows us in a remarkable way how Jesus would establish that kingdom here on Earth. Step by step, we see the Messiah ushering in God's kingdom through healing, casting out demons and powerful displays of authority over humanity, nature and the spiritual realms. As He works, Jesus gathers His disciples and empowers them to accomplish His mission as well.

This daily devotional will walk you through several chapters of Matthew, section by section. Each Sunday there will be an opportunity to respond to the sermon, which provides the primary teaching for the week. Each weekday will have a section of Scripture for you to read, sometimes from Matthew, sometimes from related texts. There will be a question or two for reflection afterwards, primarily to ask yourself what you are learning about God or yourself in this context. Finally, each Saturday there is an opportunity for you to reflect on all that you have read and learned from the week, and see where God would have you apply and share that message.

Our hope is that as you witness the Messiah's Mission, you will be drawn to carry it on in your life, at work, at home, in your neighborhood and this church.

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## ABOUT EASTBROOK 365:

Due to the uncertainty of the season we find ourselves in, we at Eastbrook are writing and producing a year of daily devotionals that we are calling "Eastbrook 365." These devotionals will align with our sermon series from September 2020-August 2021 and will help Eastbrookers near and far grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus, while also continuing to pilgrimage together as a Church.

### YOU CAN READ THESE DEVOTIONALS IN A VARIETY OF WAYS:

- Download the Eastbrook App for your phone and read each day (*eastbrook.org/app*)
- Download individual PDFs of each devotional to read at home or print out at home (*eastbrook.org/devotionals*)
- Sign up for the Eastbrook 365 Devotional email to be delivered to your inbox each morning (*eastbrook.org/email*)
- Pick up a paper copy at church, either at a service, or in the Church Office, as each devotional begins (limited copies available)

We pray God's blessings on you as you spend time with Him each day.

# HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL:

## **FIND A RHYTHM THAT WORKS FOR YOU**

Plan a 30-minute window each day when you can thoughtfully do the daily reading and study. Set a time, create a pattern, and stick to it for all six and a half weeks.

## **DAILY SCRIPTURE READING**

Each day, the Scripture passage for the day will be printed on the page, with space for you to write, draw, and engage with the text. Connect key passages with lines, circles, or underlines.

## **JOURNALING SPACE**

Each day also features space for personal reflection and prayer, along with a few prompting questions to guide your reflection. Feel free to write here, to draw, to doodle, or not—this is your book!

## **CONNECT IN COMMUNITY**

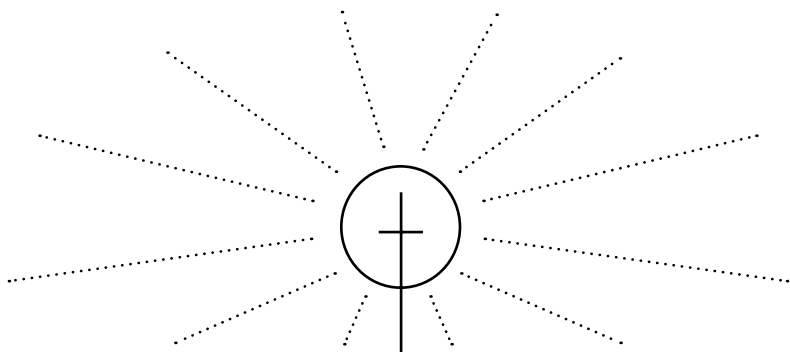
Use the online version of the devotional readings to reach out to friends online and around the world. Invite them to follow along with you during this year of devotionals from Eastbrook, which we are calling "Eastbrook 365." Find the online version at [eastbrook.org/devotionals](http://eastbrook.org/devotionals).

Use Eastbrook's Facebook page ([facebook.com/eastbrookchurch](https://facebook.com/eastbrookchurch)) and other social media outlets such as Twitter and Instagram ([@eastbrookchurch](https://twitter.com/eastbrookchurch)) to share ideas. Post your comments, thoughts, and questions in the online version. Read others' comments. This is a great way to learn from the perspective of others.

# WORSHIP EXPERIENCE RESPONSE

USE THIS PAGE TO REFLECT ON THE WORSHIP SERVICE YOU EXPERIENCED THIS WEEK. YOU CAN INCLUDE THOUGHTS ON THE MESSAGE, THE PRAYERS, THE MUSIC—WHATEVER IMPACTED YOU THE MOST! FEEL FREE TO DRAW PICTURES, WRITE POEMS, PRAYERS OR ANSWERS, WHATEVER HELPS YOU PROCESS YOUR WORSHIP EXPERIENCE.

- What stood out the most about your worship experience this week? Was there a song that you keep singing, a quote you keep thinking about or a prayer that you needed to hear?
- What was the “Big Idea” behind the message you heard? What other important thoughts do you remember?
- How can you respond to the message you’ve heard? Is there an action you will take this week to put it into practice in your life?
- Is there someone in your life you think needs to experience this week’s worship service? How will you let them know? Share our online services: [eastbrook.org/athome](http://eastbrook.org/athome).



**READ MATTHEW 8:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. <sup>2</sup> A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

<sup>3</sup> Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy. <sup>4</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

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**WEEK 1 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage that speak about the Messiah that heals, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ MATTHEW 8:5-13**

<sup>5</sup> When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. <sup>6</sup>

“Lord,” he said, “my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly.”

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, “Shall I come and heal him?”

<sup>8</sup> The centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>9</sup> For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

<sup>10</sup> When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. <sup>11</sup> I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>12</sup> But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would.” And his servant was healed at that moment.

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**WEEK 1 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage that speak about the Messiah that heals, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ MATTHEW 8:14-17**

<sup>14</sup> When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. <sup>15</sup> He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him.

<sup>16</sup> When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. <sup>17</sup> This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

*"He took up our infirmities  
and bore our diseases."*

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**WEEK 1 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage that speak about the Messiah that heals, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ ISAIAH 35:3-7**

<sup>3</sup> *Strengthen the feeble hands,  
steady the knees that give way;  
<sup>4</sup> say to those with fearful hearts,  
"Be strong, do not fear;  
your God will come,  
he will come with vengeance;  
with divine retribution  
he will come to save you."*

<sup>5</sup> *Then will the eyes of the blind be opened  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.*

<sup>6</sup> *Then will the lame leap like a deer,  
and the mute tongue shout for joy.  
Water will gush forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert.*

<sup>7</sup> *The burning sand will become a pool,  
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.  
In the haunts where jackals once lay,  
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.*

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**WEEK 1 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage that speak about the Messiah that heals, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ LUKE 7:21-23**

<sup>21</sup> At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. <sup>22</sup> So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. <sup>23</sup> Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

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**WEEK 1 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage that speak about the Messiah that heals, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

# WEEKLY REVIEW AND APPLICATION

Use this page either by yourself, with one or two other people, or with your small group to reflect on how this week's readings have impacted you.

## REFLECT ON YOUR DISCOVERIES FROM THE PREVIOUS WEEK:

Based on your reading and reflection this week, what did you discover about the kingdom of God?

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What did you discover about yourself?

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What questions are you still wondering about after having read the passages this week?

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## NURTURE GROWTH THROUGH CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE:

As you went through the readings and devotions, where did the Spirit lead you to repentance and faith this week?

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Spend time praying for one another and for the Holy Spirit to help us have faith in the forgiveness and grace of God.

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## ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TOWARDS ACTION IN RESPONSE:

In light of what I have discovered about God and myself this week, what is one thing I need to do differently? What steps will I take to implement this change?

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As a disciple-making-disciple, who am I impacting for Christ? Who am I praying for? How am I introducing them to the kingdom of God?

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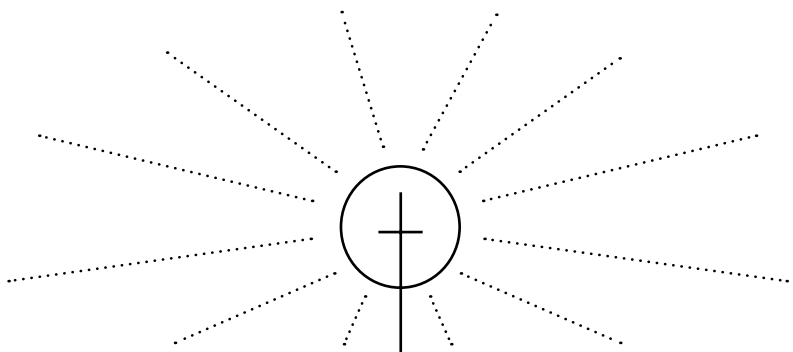


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**READ MATTHEW 4:18-22**

<sup>18</sup> As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” <sup>20</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him.

<sup>21</sup> Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, <sup>22</sup> and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

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**WEEK 2 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage about the cost of following the Messiah's call, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ LUKE 9:23-26**

<sup>23</sup> Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." <sup>24</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. <sup>25</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? <sup>26</sup> Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

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**WEEK 2 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage about the cost of following the Messiah's call, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ LUKE 14:25-33**

<sup>25</sup> Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: <sup>26</sup> “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

<sup>28</sup> “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? <sup>29</sup> For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, <sup>30</sup> saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

<sup>31</sup> “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup> In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

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**WEEK 2 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage about the cost of following the Messiah's call, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ ROMANS 12:1-8**

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.<sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

<sup>3</sup> *For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.<sup>4</sup> For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,<sup>5</sup> so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.<sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith;<sup>7</sup> if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach;<sup>8</sup> if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*

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**WEEK 2 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage about the cost of following the Messiah's call, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ PHILIPPIANS 3:7-12**

<sup>7</sup> But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

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**WEEK 2 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

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As you went through the readings and devotions, where did the Spirit lead you to repentance and faith this week?

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Spend time praying for one another and for the Holy Spirit to help us have faith in the forgiveness and grace of God.

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**ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TOWARDS ACTION IN RESPONSE:**

In light of what I have discovered about God and myself this week, what is one thing I need to do differently? What steps will I take to implement this change?

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As a disciple-making-disciple , who am I impacting for Christ? Who am I praying for? How am I introducing them to the kingdom of God?

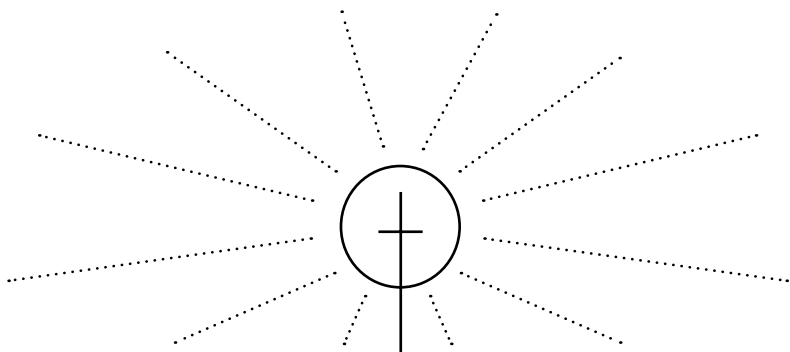
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**READ MATTHEW 8:23-27**

<sup>23</sup> Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. <sup>24</sup> Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. <sup>25</sup>

The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"

<sup>26</sup> He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

<sup>27</sup> The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

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**WEEK 3 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage that speaks about the authority of the Messiah, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ JEREMIAH 10:12-16**

<sup>12</sup> *But God made the earth by his power;  
he founded the world by his wisdom  
and stretched out the heavens by his understanding.*

<sup>13</sup> *When he thunders, the waters in the heavens roar;  
he makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth.*

*He sends lightning with the rain  
and brings out the wind from his storehouses.*

<sup>14</sup> *Everyone is senseless and without knowledge;  
every goldsmith is shamed by his idols.*

*The images he makes are a fraud;  
they have no breath in them.*

<sup>15</sup> *They are worthless, the objects of mockery;  
when their judgment comes, they will perish.*

<sup>16</sup> *He who is the Portion of Jacob is not like these,  
for he is the Maker of all things,  
including Israel, the people of his inheritance—  
the Lord Almighty is his name.*

**WEEK 3 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage that speaks about the authority of the Messiah, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ MATTHEW 8:28-34**

<sup>28</sup> When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. <sup>29</sup> “What do you want with us, Son of God?” they shouted. “Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?”

<sup>30</sup> Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. <sup>31</sup> The demons begged Jesus, “If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs.”

<sup>32</sup> He said to them, “Go!” So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water. <sup>33</sup> Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town and reported all this, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. <sup>34</sup> Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region.

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**WEEK 3 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage that speaks about the authority of the Messiah, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ MARK 1:21-28**

<sup>21</sup> They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. <sup>22</sup> The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. <sup>23</sup> Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, <sup>24</sup> "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

<sup>25</sup> "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" <sup>26</sup> The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

<sup>27</sup> The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him." <sup>28</sup> News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

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**WEEK 3 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage that speaks about the authority of the Messiah, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ MATTHEW 9:1-8**

*Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town.<sup>2</sup> Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."*

*<sup>3</sup> At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!"*

*<sup>4</sup> Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts?<sup>5</sup> Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?<sup>6</sup> But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "Get up, take your mat and go home."<sup>7</sup> Then the man got up and went home.<sup>8</sup> When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to man.*

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**WEEK 3 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage that speaks about the authority of the Messiah, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

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Based on your reading and reflection this week, what did you discover about the kingdom of God?

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As you went through the readings and devotions, where did the Spirit lead you to repentance and faith this week?

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Spend time praying for one another and for the Holy Spirit to help us have faith in the forgiveness and grace of God.

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## ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TOWARDS ACTION IN RESPONSE:

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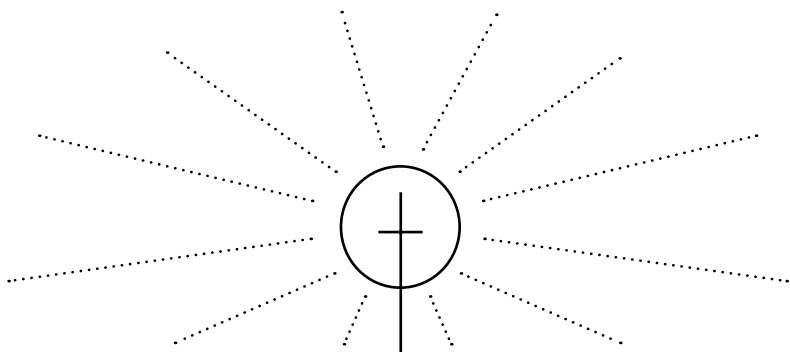
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**READ MATTHEW 9:9-13**

<sup>9</sup> As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

<sup>10</sup> While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

<sup>12</sup> On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. <sup>13</sup> But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

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**WEEK 4 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage that speaks about the kind of people the Messiah sought out, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ MATTHEW 9:14-17**

<sup>14</sup> Then John's disciples came and asked him, "How is it that we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?"

<sup>15</sup> Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast.

<sup>16</sup> "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. <sup>17</sup> Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."

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**WEEK 4 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage that speaks about the kind of people the Messiah sought out, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ LUKE 19:1-10**

*Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup> A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. <sup>3</sup> He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. <sup>4</sup> So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.*

*<sup>5</sup> When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." <sup>6</sup> So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.*

*<sup>7</sup> All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."*

*<sup>8</sup> But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."*

*<sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."*

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**WEEK 4 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage that speaks about the kind of people the Messiah sought out, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ LUKE 7:36-50**

<sup>36</sup> When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. <sup>37</sup> A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. <sup>38</sup> As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

<sup>39</sup> When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."

<sup>40</sup> Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

"Tell me, teacher," he said.

<sup>41</sup> "Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. <sup>42</sup> Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

<sup>43</sup> Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven."

"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

<sup>44</sup> Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. <sup>45</sup> You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. <sup>46</sup> You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. <sup>47</sup> Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."

<sup>48</sup> Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

<sup>49</sup> The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

<sup>50</sup> Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

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**WEEK 4 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage that speaks about the kind of people the Messiah sought out, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ LUKE 15:1-10**

*Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus.<sup>2</sup> But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."*

*<sup>3</sup> Then Jesus told them this parable:<sup>4</sup> "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?"<sup>5</sup> And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders<sup>6</sup> and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'<sup>7</sup> I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.*

*<sup>8</sup> "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins[a] and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?"<sup>9</sup> And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.'<sup>10</sup> In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."*

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**WEEK 4 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

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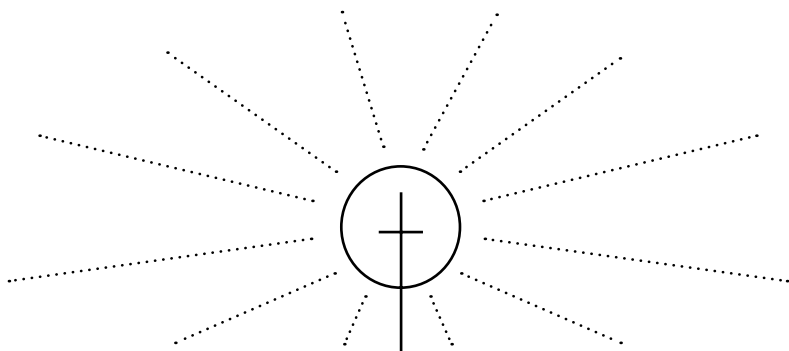
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**READ MATTHEW 9:18-19 AND 23-26**

<sup>18</sup> While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live."<sup>19</sup> Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples.

...

<sup>23</sup> When Jesus entered the synagogue leader's house and saw the noisy crowd and people playing pipes, <sup>24</sup> he said, "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him. <sup>25</sup> After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. <sup>26</sup> News of this spread through all that region.

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**WEEK 5 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage that speaks about the deliverance the Messiah brings, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ MATTHEW 9:20-22**

<sup>20</sup> Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. <sup>21</sup> She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed."

<sup>22</sup> Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed at that moment.

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**WEEK 5 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage that speaks about the deliverance the Messiah brings, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ MATTHEW 9:27-31**

<sup>27</sup> *As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"*

<sup>28</sup> *When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?"*

*"Yes, Lord," they replied.*

<sup>29</sup> *Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith let it be done to you";<sup>30</sup> and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this."<sup>31</sup> But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.*

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**WEEK 5 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage that speaks about the deliverance the Messiah brings, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ MATTHEW 9:32-34**

<sup>32</sup> While they were going out, a man who was demon-possessed and could not talk was brought to Jesus. <sup>33</sup> And when the demon was driven out, the man who had been mute spoke. The crowd was amazed and said, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel."

<sup>34</sup> But the Pharisees said, "It is by the prince of demons that he drives out demons."

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**WEEK 5 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage that speaks about the deliverance the Messiah brings, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ PSALM 40:13-17**

<sup>13</sup> *Be pleased to save me, Lord;*

*come quickly, Lord, to help me.*

<sup>14</sup> *May all who want to take my life*

*be put to shame and confusion;*

*may all who desire my ruin*

*be turned back in disgrace.*

<sup>15</sup> *May those who say to me, "Aha! Aha!"*

*be appalled at their own shame.*

<sup>16</sup> *But may all who seek you*

*rejoice and be glad in you;*

*may those who long for your saving help always say,*

*"The Lord is great!"*

<sup>17</sup> *But as for me, I am poor and needy;*

*may the Lord think of me.*

*You are my help and my deliverer;*

*you are my God, do not delay.*

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**WEEK 5 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

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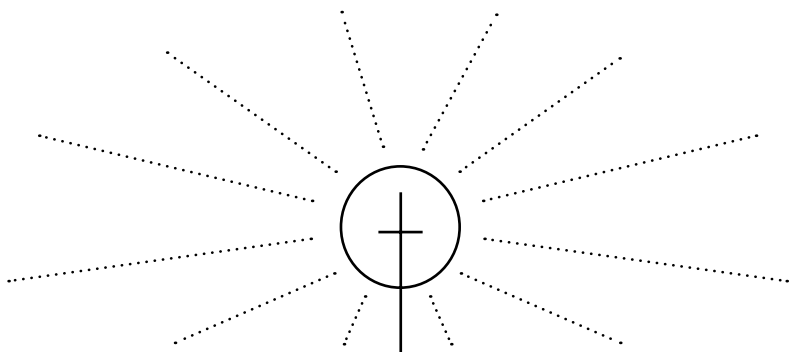


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**READ JOHN 20:19-23**

<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

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**WEEK 6 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read these instructions the Messiah gave His disciples, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ MATTHEW 9:35-38**

<sup>35</sup> Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

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**WEEK 6 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read these instructions the Messiah gave His disciples, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ MATTHEW 10:1-10**

*Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.*

<sup>2</sup> *These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John;<sup>3</sup> Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;<sup>4</sup> Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.*

<sup>5</sup> *These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. <sup>6</sup> Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. <sup>7</sup> As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’*

<sup>8</sup> *Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.*

<sup>9</sup> *“Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts— <sup>10</sup> no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep.*

**WEEK 6 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read these instructions the Messiah gave His disciples, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ MATTHEW 10:11-16**

*<sup>11</sup> Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave. <sup>12</sup> As you enter the home, give it your greeting. <sup>13</sup> If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. <sup>14</sup> If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet. <sup>15</sup> Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.*

*<sup>16</sup> "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.*

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**WEEK 6 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read these instructions the Messiah gave His disciples, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ MATTHEW 10:17-25**

<sup>17</sup> Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. <sup>18</sup> On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. <sup>19</sup> But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, <sup>20</sup> for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

<sup>21</sup> "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. <sup>22</sup> You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. <sup>23</sup> When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

<sup>24</sup> "The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. <sup>25</sup> It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

**WEEK 6 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

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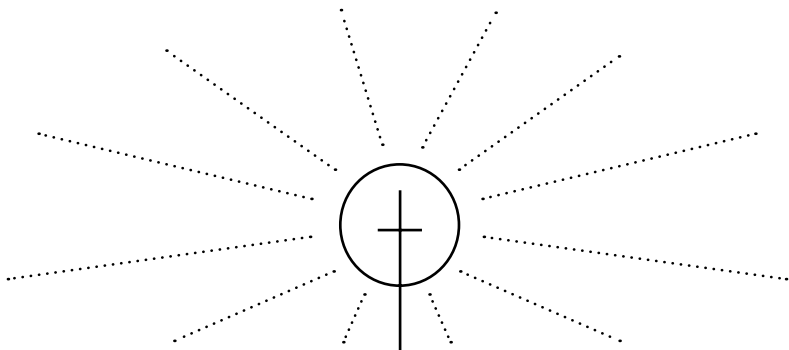


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# WORSHIP EXPERIENCE RESPONSE

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**READ LUKE 10:1-12**

*After this the Lord appointed seventy-two[a] others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. <sup>2</sup> He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. <sup>3</sup> Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. <sup>4</sup> Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.*

*<sup>5</sup> "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' <sup>6</sup> If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. <sup>7</sup> Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.*

*<sup>8</sup> "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. <sup>9</sup> Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' <sup>10</sup> But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, <sup>11</sup> 'Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.' <sup>12</sup> I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.*

**WEEK 7 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read these instructions the Messiah gave His disciples, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ MATTHEW 10:26-31**

<sup>26</sup> "So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. <sup>27</sup> What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. <sup>28</sup> Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. <sup>30</sup> And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup> So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

**WEEK 7 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read these instructions the Messiah gave His disciples, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ MATTHEW 10:32-39**

<sup>32</sup> “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. <sup>33</sup> But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

<sup>34</sup> “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup> For I have come to turn

“a man against his father,  
a daughter against her mother,  
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—

<sup>36</sup> a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’

<sup>37</sup> “Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup> Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

**WEEK 7 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read these instructions the Messiah gave His disciples, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ MATTHEW 10:40-11:1**

<sup>40</sup> "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup> Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. <sup>42</sup> And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."

<sup>11</sup> After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee.

**WEEK 7 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read these instructions the Messiah gave His disciples, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ MATTHEW 28:16-20**

<sup>16</sup> Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

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**WEEK 7 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read these instructions the Messiah gave His disciples, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

# WEEKLY REVIEW AND APPLICATION

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Based on your reading and reflection this week, what did you discover about the kingdom of God?

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Spend time praying for one another and for the Holy Spirit to help us have faith in the forgiveness and grace of God.

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In light of what I have discovered about God and myself this week, what is one thing I need to do differently? What steps will I take to implement this change?

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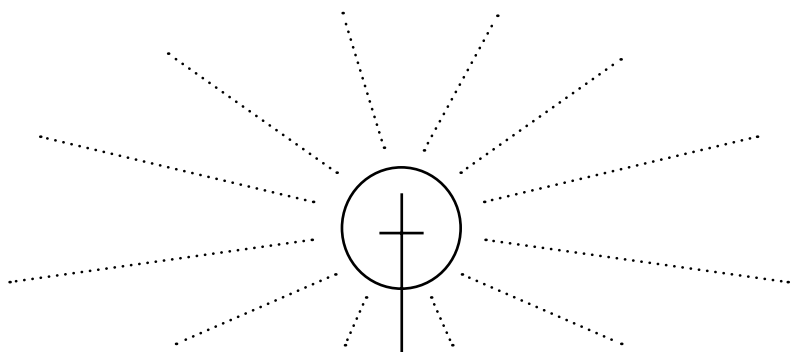


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**READ MATTHEW 11:2-6**

<sup>2</sup> When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples <sup>3</sup> to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

<sup>4</sup> Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. <sup>6</sup> Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

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**WEEK 8 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage about the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ MALACHI 2:17-3:5**

<sup>17</sup> *You have wearied the Lord with your words.*

*"How have we wearied him?" you ask.*

*By saying, "All who do evil are good in the eyes of the Lord, and he is pleased with them" or "Where is the God of justice?"*

<sup>3</sup> *"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty.*

<sup>2</sup> *But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. <sup>3</sup> He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, <sup>4</sup> and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.*

<sup>5</sup> *"So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me," says the Lord Almighty.*

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**WEEK 8 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage about the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ MATTHEW 11:7-11**

<sup>7</sup> As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind?" <sup>8</sup> If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. <sup>9</sup> Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you."

<sup>11</sup> Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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**WEEK 8 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage about the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ MARK 1:1-3 AND ISAIAH 40:3-5**

<sup>1</sup> *The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God,* <sup>2</sup> *as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:*

*"I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way"—*

<sup>3</sup> *"a voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
'Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.'"*

...

<sup>3</sup> *A voice of one calling:*

*"In the wilderness prepare  
the way for the Lord;  
make straight in the desert  
a highway for our God.*

<sup>4</sup> *Every valley shall be raised up,  
every mountain and hill made low;  
the rough ground shall become level,  
the rugged places a plain.*

<sup>5</sup> *And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,  
and all people will see it together.  
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."*

**WEEK 8 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage about the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ MATTHEW 11:12-19**

<sup>12</sup>From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. <sup>13</sup>For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. <sup>14</sup>And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. <sup>15</sup>Whoever has ears, let them hear.

<sup>16</sup>"To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others:

<sup>17</sup>"We played the pipe for you,  
and you did not dance;  
we sang a dirge,  
and you did not mourn.'

<sup>18</sup>For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' <sup>19</sup>The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is proved right by her deeds."

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**WEEK 8 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage about the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

# WEEKLY REVIEW AND APPLICATION

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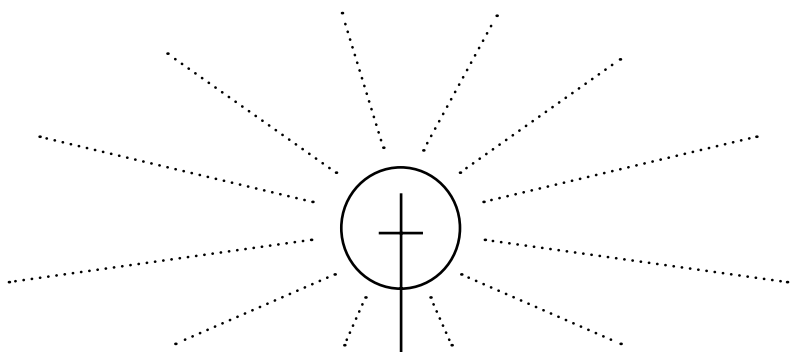
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**READ MATTHEW 11:20-24**

*<sup>20</sup> Then Jesus began to denounce the towns in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent. <sup>21</sup> "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>22</sup> But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. <sup>23</sup> And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades. For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. <sup>24</sup> But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you."*

**WEEK 9 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage that shares the consequences of unbelief, but also provide a huge promise, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ EZEKIEL 26:1-6**

*In the eleventh month of the twelfth year, on the first day of the month, the word of the Lord came to me: <sup>2</sup> "Son of man, because Tyre has said of Jerusalem, 'Aha! The gate to the nations is broken, and its doors have swung open to me; now that she lies in ruins I will prosper,' <sup>3</sup> therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am against you, Tyre, and I will bring many nations against you, like the sea casting up its waves. <sup>4</sup> They will destroy the walls of Tyre and pull down her towers; I will scrape away her rubble and make her a bare rock. <sup>5</sup> Out in the sea she will become a place to spread fishnets, for I have spoken, declares the Sovereign Lord. She will become plunder for the nations, <sup>6</sup> and her settlements on the mainland will be ravaged by the sword. Then they will know that I am the Lord.*

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**READ JEREMIAH 23:13-14 AND LAMENTATIONS 4:6-8**

<sup>13</sup> *"Among the prophets of Samaria*

*I saw this repulsive thing:*

*They prophesied by Baal*

*and led my people Israel astray.*

<sup>14</sup> *And among the prophets of Jerusalem*

*I have seen something horrible:*

*They commit adultery and live a lie.*

*They strengthen the hands of evildoers,*

*so that not one of them turns from their wickedness.*

*They are all like Sodom to me;*

*the people of Jerusalem are like Gomorrah."*

*///*

<sup>6</sup> *The punishment of my people*

*is greater than that of Sodom,*

*which was overthrown in a moment*

*without a hand turned to help her.*

<sup>7</sup> *Their princes were brighter than snow*

*and whiter than milk,*

*their bodies more ruddy than rubies,*

*their appearance like lapis lazuli.*

<sup>8</sup> *But now they are blacker than soot;*

*they are not recognized in the streets.*

*Their skin has shriveled on their bones;*

*it has become as dry as a stick.*

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**WEEK 9 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage that shares the consequences of unbelief, but also provide a huge promise, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ MATTHEW 11:25-30**

<sup>25</sup> *At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. <sup>26</sup> Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.*

<sup>27</sup> *"All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.*

<sup>28</sup> *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

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**READ ISAIAH 40:28-31**

<sup>28</sup> *Do you not know?*

*Have you not heard?*

*The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.*

*He will not grow tired or weary,  
and his understanding no one can fathom.*

<sup>29</sup> *He gives strength to the weary  
and increases the power of the weak.*

<sup>30</sup> *Even youths grow tired and weary,  
and young men stumble and fall;*

<sup>31</sup> *but those who hope in the Lord  
will renew their strength.*

*They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.*

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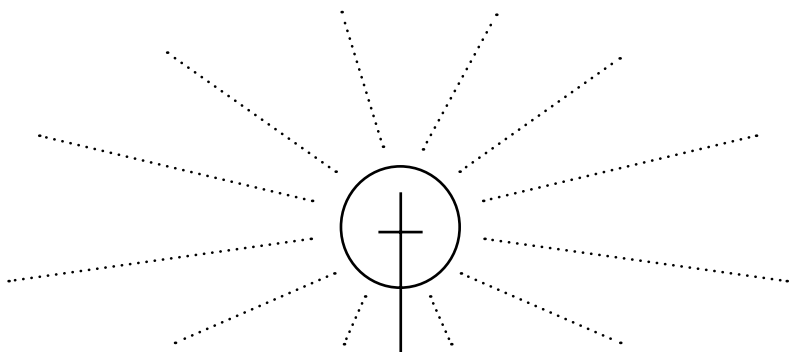


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**READ ISAIAH 40:28-31**

*At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them.<sup>2</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath."*

*<sup>3</sup> He answered, "Haven't you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry?<sup>4</sup> He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread—which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests.*

*<sup>5</sup> Or haven't you read in the Law that the priests on Sabbath duty in the temple desecrate the Sabbath and yet are innocent?<sup>6</sup> I tell you that something greater than the temple is here.<sup>7</sup> If you had known what these words mean, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent.<sup>8</sup> For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."*

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**WEEK 10 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage that speaks about relationship between the Messiah and the Sabbath, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ ISAIAH 58:5-10**

<sup>5</sup> *Is this the kind of fast I have chosen,  
only a day for people to humble themselves?  
Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed  
and for lying in sackcloth and ashes?  
Is that what you call a fast,  
a day acceptable to the Lord?*

<sup>6</sup> *"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:  
to loose the chains of injustice  
and untie the cords of the yoke,  
to set the oppressed free  
and break every yoke?*

<sup>7</sup> *Is it not to share your food with the hungry  
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—  
when you see the naked, to clothe them,  
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?*

<sup>8</sup> *Then your light will break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing will quickly appear;  
then your righteousness will go before you,  
and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.*

<sup>9</sup> *Then you will call, and the Lord will answer;  
you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.  
"If you do away with the yoke of oppression,  
with the pointing finger and malicious talk,*

<sup>10</sup> *and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,  
then your light will rise in the darkness,  
and your night will become like the noonday.*

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**WEEK 10 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage that speaks about relationship between the Messiah and the Sabbath, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ MATTHEW 12:8-14**

<sup>8</sup> *For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."*

<sup>9</sup> *Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue, <sup>10</sup> and a man with a shriveled hand was there. Looking for a reason to bring charges against Jesus, they asked him, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"*

<sup>11</sup> *He said to them, "If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? <sup>12</sup> How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."*

<sup>13</sup> *Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other. <sup>14</sup> But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.*

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**READ MATTHEW 12:14-21**

<sup>14</sup> But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. A large crowd followed him, and he healed all who were ill. <sup>16</sup> He warned them not to tell others about him. <sup>17</sup> This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

<sup>18</sup> “Here is my servant whom I have chosen,  
the one I love, in whom I delight;  
I will put my Spirit on him,  
and he will proclaim justice to the nations.

<sup>19</sup> He will not quarrel or cry out;  
no one will hear his voice in the streets.

<sup>20</sup> A bruised reed he will not break,  
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out,  
till he has brought justice through to victory.

<sup>21</sup> In his name the nations will put their hope.”

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**WEEK 10 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage that speaks about relationship between the Messiah and the Sabbath, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ ISAIAH 42:1-7**

*"Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen one in whom I delight;  
I will put my Spirit on him,  
and he will bring justice to the nations.*

<sup>2</sup> *He will not shout or cry out,  
or raise his voice in the streets.*

<sup>3</sup> *A bruised reed he will not break,  
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.*

*In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;*

<sup>4</sup> *he will not falter or be discouraged  
till he establishes justice on earth.*

*In his teaching the islands will put their hope."*

<sup>5</sup> *This is what God the Lord says—*

*the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out,  
who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it,  
who gives breath to its people,  
and life to those who walk on it:*

<sup>6</sup> *"I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness;  
I will take hold of your hand.*

*I will keep you and will make you  
to be a covenant for the people  
and a light for the Gentiles,*

<sup>7</sup> *to open eyes that are blind,  
to free captives from prison  
and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.*

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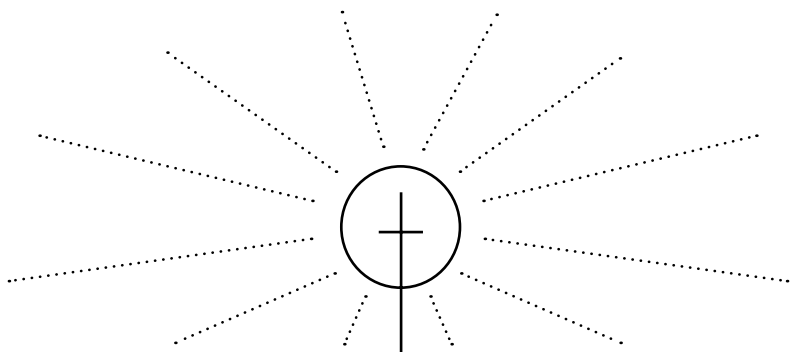
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**READ MATTHEW 12:22-24**

<sup>22</sup> Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. <sup>23</sup> All the people were astonished and said, "Could this be the Son of David?"

<sup>24</sup> But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons."

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**WEEK 11 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage that speaks about the conflict between the Messiah and Satan, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God in each? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ MATTHEW 12:25-29**

<sup>25</sup> Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. <sup>26</sup> If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? <sup>27</sup> And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. <sup>28</sup> But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

<sup>29</sup> “Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man’s house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can plunder his house.

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**WEEK 11 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage that speaks about the conflict between the Messiah and Satan, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God in each? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ MATTHEW 12:30-32**

<sup>30</sup> "Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. <sup>31</sup> And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. <sup>32</sup> Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

**WEEK 11 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage that speaks about the conflict between the Messiah and Satan, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God in each? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ MATTHEW 12:33-37**

<sup>33</sup> "Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. <sup>34</sup> You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. <sup>35</sup> A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. <sup>36</sup> But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. <sup>37</sup> For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

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**READ JAMES 3:9-18**

<sup>9</sup>With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. <sup>10</sup>Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. <sup>11</sup>Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? <sup>12</sup>My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.

<sup>15</sup>Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. <sup>16</sup>For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

<sup>17</sup>But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. <sup>18</sup>Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

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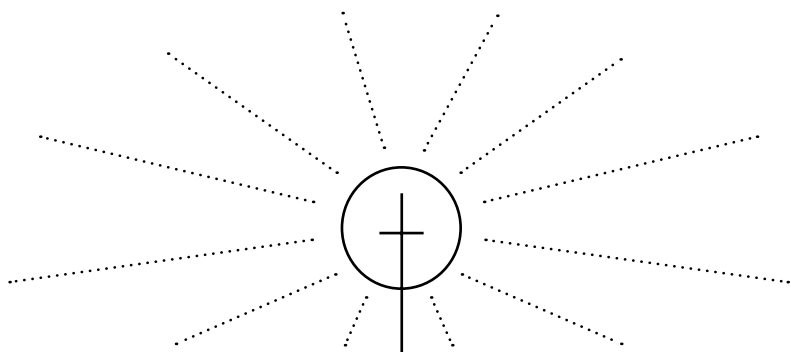
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**READ MATTHEW 12:38-42**

<sup>38</sup> Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from you."

<sup>39</sup> He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. <sup>40</sup> For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. <sup>41</sup> The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now something greater than Jonah is here. <sup>42</sup> The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and now something greater than Solomon is here.

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**WEEK 12 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage that speaks about the consequences of not recognizing or responding in faith to the Messiah, what stands out the most to you? What do you learn about God in each? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ JONAH 3:1-10**

*Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: <sup>2</sup> "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."*

*<sup>3</sup> Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. <sup>4</sup> Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown."<sup>5</sup> The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.*

*<sup>6</sup> When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. <sup>7</sup> This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh:*

*"By the decree of the king and his nobles:*

*Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. <sup>8</sup> But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence.*

*<sup>9</sup> Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish."*

*<sup>10</sup> When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.*

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**WEEK 12 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

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**READ 1 KINGS 10:1-9**

*When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relationship to the Lord, she came to test Solomon with hard questions.<sup>2</sup> Arriving at Jerusalem with a very great caravan—with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones—she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind.<sup>3</sup> Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her.<sup>4</sup> When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built,<sup>5</sup> the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at the temple of the Lord, she was overwhelmed.*

*<sup>6</sup> She said to the king, “The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true.<sup>7</sup> But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard.<sup>8</sup> How happy your people must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom!<sup>9</sup> Praise be to the Lord your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the Lord’s eternal love for Israel, he has made you king to maintain justice and righteousness.”*

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**WEEK 12 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage that speaks about the consequences of not recognizing or responding in faith to the Messiah, what stands out the most to you? What do you learn about God in each? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ MATTHEW 12:43-45**

<sup>43</sup> “When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. <sup>44</sup> Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. <sup>45</sup> Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation.”

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**WEEK 12 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

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**READ ISAIAH 8:11-22**

<sup>11</sup> *This is what the Lord says to me with his strong hand upon me, warning me not to follow the way of this people:*

<sup>12</sup> *"Do not call conspiracy  
everything this people calls a conspiracy;  
do not fear what they fear,  
and do not dread it.*

<sup>13</sup> *The Lord Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy,  
he is the one you are to fear,  
he is the one you are to dread.*

<sup>14</sup> *He will be a holy place;  
for both Israel and Judah he will be  
a stone that causes people to stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall.  
And for the people of Jerusalem he will be  
a trap and a snare.*

<sup>15</sup> *Many of them will stumble;  
they will fall and be broken,  
they will be snared and captured."*

<sup>16</sup> *Bind up this testimony of warning  
and seal up God's instruction among my disciples.*

<sup>17</sup> *I will wait for the Lord,  
who is hiding his face from the descendants of Jacob.  
I will put my trust in him.*

<sup>18</sup> *Here am I, and the children the Lord has given me. We are signs and symbols in Israel from the Lord Almighty, who dwells on Mount Zion.*

<sup>19</sup> *When someone tells you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? <sup>20</sup> Consult God's instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn. <sup>21</sup> Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land; when they are famished, they will become enraged and, looking upward, will curse their king and their God. <sup>22</sup> Then they will look toward the earth and see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter darkness.*

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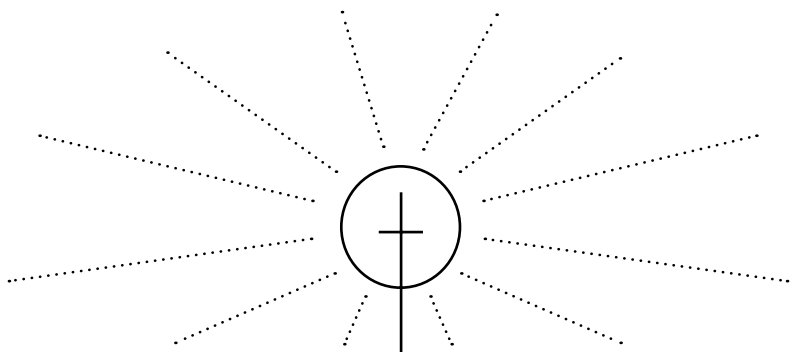


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**READ ROMANS 8:14-17**

<sup>14</sup>For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. <sup>15</sup>The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” <sup>16</sup>The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. <sup>17</sup>Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

**WEEK 13 REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

As you read this passage that speaks about what it means to be family to the Messiah, what stands out most to you? What do you learn about God in each? What do you learn about yourself?

**READ HEBREWS 2:10-18**

<sup>10</sup> In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. <sup>11</sup> Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup> He says,

*"I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters;  
in the assembly I will sing your praises."*

<sup>13</sup> And again,

*"I will put my trust in him."  
And again he says,*

*"Here am I, and the children God has given me."*

<sup>14</sup> Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—<sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. <sup>17</sup> For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

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**READ EPHESIANS 1:2-6**

<sup>2</sup> *Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

<sup>3</sup> *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.* <sup>4</sup> *For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love* <sup>5</sup> *he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—* <sup>6</sup> *to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.*

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**READ JOHN 15:12-17**

<sup>12</sup> My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup> I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. <sup>17</sup> This is my command: Love each other.

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**READ LUKE 8:19-21**

<sup>19</sup>Now Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him, but they were not able to get near him because of the crowd. <sup>20</sup>Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you."

<sup>21</sup>He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice."

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## SOURCES

1. All Scripture quotations are taken from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted. *The Holy Bible*, New International Version. Grand Rapids: Zondervan House, 2011.

AFTER THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT,  
JESUS BEGINS IN EARNEST HIS MISSION  
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AND DISPLAYING THE KINGDOM OF GOD.  
JOIN US AS WE DIG INTO MATTHEW  
8-12, AND EXPLORE HOW JESUS DOES  
THE WORK AND THEN INVITES HIS  
FOLLOWERS INTO THE WORK.

